



Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for your interest in the Talkback Classroom program. The Talkback Classroom program encourages debate and exploration of current social and political issues both here in the United States and abroad. The topic for the Spring 2005 session is "Cultural Heritage and Diversity."

The Talkback Classroom program is a place for students to engage in a free exchange of thought-provoking ideas. If you are selected to take part in the program, you will participate in a series of workshops conducted by experts at the Smithsonian Institution. Prior to the workshops, background reading will be available at www.SmithsonianEducation.org/Talkback. After each workshop students will meet online for a follow-up chat.

The culminating activity is an international videoconference in April 2005 that links the students in the Washington, D.C., with students in Canberra, Australia.

If you would like to join, complete the following application form, including the Memorandum of Understanding and the Photography/Video Release Form. Mail or fax your application to:

Talkback Classroom Program
c/o Candra Flanagan
Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies
A&I 1163, P.O. Box 37012
Washington, DC 20013-7012

Fax: 202 357 4908

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Candra Flanagan (202 357 2111/ cflanagan@si.edu) or Lynn-Steven Engelke (202 357 3050/ engelkel@si.edu).

Talkback Classroom 2005

Application Form

Pt 1

If you applied in 2004, please check this box.

Name:

Address:

Address 2:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Age (must be 16 by date of forum):

Grade Level:

G.P.A.:

School Name:

School Address:

School District:

Sponsoring Teacher (if applicable):

Extracurricular Activities:

Hobbies:

Talkback Classroom 2005

Application Form
Pt 2

Please respond to the following on separate paper. Make sure that you type/write your name in the upper right hand corner of all extra pages.

Biographical Essay & Photo:

In one page or less, tell us more about yourself and why you would like to participate in the Talkback Classroom Videoconference program. A photo is optional but very much appreciated to help us get to know you.

Talkback Classroom Guest:

In a short paragraph or two, tell us who you would like to interview on the topic of Cultural Heritage and Diversity. List up to six questions that you would ask this person.

*"When we lose the right to be different, we lose the privilege to be free."
Charles Evans Hughes*

Memorandum of Understanding
for
Talkback Classroom

Dear Student and Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for your interest in the Talkback Classroom program! We are looking forward to an exciting program. Please read and sign this memorandum of understanding if you can agree to the following expectations and commitments.

- ◆ Attend three workshops at the Smithsonian Institution.
- ◆ Participate in online message boards. We ask that you post at least one response to a monthly question.
- ◆ Participate in live online chat(s) with museum educators and other students. In preparation for the videoconference international online live chats maybe very late at night (11pm) or very early in the morning (4 am) because of the time difference.
- ◆ Attend the videoconference rehearsal
- ◆ **MANDATORY:** Attend the live videoconference at the National Museum of American History, Behring Center from 6:00 pm-10:00 pm
- ◆ Complete evaluation for Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies after the Talkback Classroom program

Please complete and return with your application materials.

I, (student name) _____, have read and agree to the above expectations and commitments. I will do my best to uphold the agreement and in the event that I cannot attend a workshop, I will give 48 hours notice to the Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies.

(Signature)_____

I, (parent/guardian name) _____, understand the expectations for my child to participate. Furthermore, I understand that transportation is not provided by the Smithsonian Institution for any meetings or workshops.

(Signature)_____

